Increasing Silk Production in North-East

2288. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for increasing the production of silk in North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of amount proposed to be spent on the scheme by Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. P[illegible]MACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R & D training. Infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/Investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture projects in associations/collaboration with the States. As far as North Eastern states are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows.

(i) North eastern Action Plan covering all States of the North Eastern region is presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increase in acreage by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units etc. This project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.

(ii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.

(iii) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(iv) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(v) Besides, to boost the production of silk in the country, 36 Catalytic Development Schems have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board.

(vi) An integrated Muga and Eri Development Project has been prepared by the Central Silk Board for North Eastern States including Assam, for implementation during IXth Plan period.

(vii) The Government of Manipur has under-taken implementation of a project with financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan in respect of mulberry sericulture and Eri culture.

(viii) Under the Fibres and handicrafts Programme (FHAP) with UNDP assistance, development programmes are being implemented in the non-mulberry sector.

(c) The Central Silk Board has projected an expenditure of approximately Rs. 56 crore for development of sericulture in the North Eastern States.

Export of Ready-made Garments and Handicrafts

2289. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of readymade garments and handicrafts exported from the country, as on 30th November, 1999; and

(b) the action being taken by Government to increase the export of such items during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no provision for collecting state-wise export data. However, Exports of Readymade Garments in the period April-November, 1999 is US $ 3283.4 million and exports of handicrafts in the period April-November, 1999 is US $ 865.54 million.

(b) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports. Some of the important initiatives/actions to increase the export during 9th Plan are as under:

(i) The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.

(iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/ EPCG units.

(v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embillishments.

(vi) Promotion through preparation of product catalogue of International Standards.

(vii) Promotion through advertisement in International magazines.

(viii) Sales-cum-study team, Design Workshop, participation in International fair.